



The WisDOT Connector *Express*

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Interstate 50th Celebration underway

As part of this year's 50th anniversary celebration of the Interstate highway system, WisDOT Secretary Frank Busalacchi is planning stops in several Wisconsin communities in June to highlight the Interstate's enormous contributions to public safety, mobility and economic development in Wisconsin. The Secretary is tentatively scheduled to participate in media events in: Tomah and Stevens Point on Monday, June 26th; in the Madison area on June 27th; Green Bay on June 28th; and in Milwaukee on June 29th. The Milwaukee event is being planned for the Goerke's corners area – where Interstate construction first began in Wisconsin in 1956. More information on the Interstate anniversary is available on the WisDOT Web site at: <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/library/history/50/index.htm>.

Opportunity for input to National Study Commission

WisDOT Secretary Frank Busalacchi was recently appointed to the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission. The 12-member group, chaired by U.S. DOT Secretary Norman Mineta, will examine the current condition of the surface transportation system, identify future needs and develop financing recommendations no later than July 1, 2007. As the commission's only representative from the Midwest region, Secretary Busalacchi will host an open forum for the commission on July 12th just prior to the start of AASHTO's Mississippi Valley Conference in Chicago. The free forum will take place at the Holiday Inn City Centre in downtown Chicago beginning at 10 a.m. and will provide transportation stakeholders an opportunity to identify key policy and revenue issues facing the Mississippi Valley Conference states. For more information, contact Beth Nachreiner at (608) 264-9523.

Another month, another Hiawatha ridership record. The popularity of Amtrak's Hiawatha Service between Milwaukee and Chicago keeps growing. April ridership totaled 46,937 - a 13% increase over April 2005 and the 17th straight month in which a ridership record has been set for that particular month. Calendar year ridership through April totals 177,619 – a 10% increase over the same period last year. In 2005, Hiawatha ridership topped the half-million mark for the first time (544,358 riders) – a number that could be surpassed this year if current ridership trends continue. April ridership to and from the new Milwaukee Airport Rail Station averaged 226 riders per day. For more information, contact WisDOT's Ron Adams at (608) 267-9284.

Upcoming events

July 12 – National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission Forum
July 12-14 – American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Mississippi Valley Conference

Check www.dot.wisconsin.gov/news/events/index.htm for more event listings and details.

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